of a particular product of this meat. We are trying to take up the matter with the concerned party.

SHRI C. HARIDAS: Sir, the hon. Minister says that among other things, efforts are being made for the promotion of joint ventures between Indian and local parties in these countries. May I know what are the existing joint ventures and the proposed joint ventures which will increase trade and commerce?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the Indian companies have set up a number of joint ventures in the Gulf areas. Now, some of these are that in Saudia Arabia we have joint ventures on rubber products, hotel management, engineering products; in Oman we have a project on petro-chemical complex; in Qatar we have three projects, namely, glass fibre, petro-chemical and paints; in UAE we have joint ventures on aluminium products, gas cylinders, sulphuric acid, steel rolling mills and ice-cream and in Bahrain we have joint venture on architectural interior decoration and construction of cinema houses.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Sir, the basis of the main question is that there is an increase in the malpractices from these countries, the exporting countries, to the Gulf countries. I want to know from the Minister whether there is any increase in malpractices in the export business by way of certain sub-standard materials especially in the edible items and whether the Government has got any complaint from any Gulf countries in this regard.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I have said that we have received one complaint and that is regarding meat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Jacob.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, in the export of vegetables to the Gulf countries there was an alarming report in the press that vegetables are not lifted from the Trivandrum airport to the Gulf countries as a result of which several crores of foreign exchange are lost. Sir, once the foreign market is lost for vegetables, it will be difficult to capture it because they may switch on to other countries for the purchase of vegetables. Sir, is the Government taking steps to ensure that the supply of vegetables is going to be continued? I am told that the Air India have refused to carry vegetables on account of security reasons for want of certain equipment for checking up the vegetables sent from Trivandrum. Has it been brought to the notice of the Government?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, we are examining this question.

Boostig of silk production

*391. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE:†

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give incentives for boosting silk production in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an "Institute of Fashion Technology" in Delhi for training designers and producers of silk; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Several steps have been taken for increasing the production of silk in the country in past. A statement indicating major steps taken in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. (Mrs.) Asima Chatterjee.

(d) A Project report for setting up of this Institute has been prepared by Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. Follow up action on the report is being taken.

Statement

Government have been implementing several schemes for the development of sericulture with a view to boosting the production of silk in the country for quite some time in the past. The Central Silk Board (CSB) which was incorporated in the year 1949 by an act of Parliament is responsible for the overall development of silk industry in the country in close co-operation with the States. The Board has been implementing the following main programmes for stepping up the production of silk in the country.

(1) For undertaking research and development activities in connection with the food plants and silkworm seed, the CSB has set up 3 Central Sericulture Research and Training Institutes and 14 Regional Research Stations in the country.

(2) The Board has been implementing the National Silkworm Seed Project (NSSP) for production and supply of high quality silkworm seed to the rearers. Under this project, mulberry cuttings to farmers in several States have also been supplied with a view to expanding sericulture in the country.

(3) Special projects for development of sericulture in a few states have also been taken up directly with a view to boosting production of silk in the country.

(4) The Central Silk Technological Research Institute has also been set up by the CSB at Bangalore for carrying out necessary research and development activities with a view to bringing about technological upgradation in the post cocoon stages of the silk industry.

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE : Sir, there is a shortage of mulberry plants. May I know what are the substitutes of silk worm foods? Here it has been mentioned in 391(1) whether the Government propose to give incentives for boosting silk production in the country? May I know what are the suitable substitutes for mulberry leaves for the food of silk worms?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down after putting the question.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, it is a technical question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not know it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: What are the substitutes for mulberry plants. I will not let the hon. Member know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may put the second supplementary. You are a scientist and you can put difficult questions to the Minister.

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE : Sir, I have got another question. Sir, it has been mentioned that three Central Sericulture Research and Training Institutes have been established in this country and fourteen Regional Research Stations. May I know whether any efforts is being made to produce improved silk worm seeds so that the silk production may be in larger quantities.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, we have a very comprehensive programme for production and supply of better seeds. In fact the deficiency at the present moment is known to the hon. Member because we produce generally multi-voltine seeds and what is required is bi-voltine seeds. A programme has been prepared for the Seventh Plan period.

Some initiative has already been taken in the Plan period, and a bigger programme is in the offing. But the details of what exactly we shall be able to do, can be clear only after the Planning Commission finally approves the Plan for development of sericulture in the Seventh Plan period.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.